



SkillsUSA KY welcomed a new sponsor for this year's masonry competitions – I.U. of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Ohio-KY Administrative District Council. Director Ken Kudela heard a presentation given by SkillsUSA KY B & I director Fran Dundon at the 2013 KY Apprenticeship Conference and decided his organization would benefit from the partnership.

“We appreciate the opportunity to work with Mr. Ken Kudela and the Ohio-KY Administrative District Council. We were delighted when they decided to sponsor our conference with a \$1,000 donation, as well as provide industry judges for our two masonry competitions. They also participated in the new ‘SkillsUSA KY Career-Job Fair’ and ‘Exhibit Fair’ held at this year’s state conference,” said Dundon. “We believe partnerships like this are mutually beneficial and provide students with pathways for career opportunities.”

According to apprentice coordinator Jeff Garnett, filling jobs in the masonry field is becoming more difficult. Therefore, it is critical to develop ways to communicate the value of a masonry career. SkillsUSA is a great place to recruit skilled individuals.

**SkillsUSA KY Masonry competitions sponsored
by I.U. of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers,
Ohio-KY Administrative Council**



Photo, back row (l to r): Ken Kudela, director, OH-KY Administrative District Council of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen; Fred Hubbard, exec. secretary treasurer; Jeff Garnett, reg. training center coordinator; and Mac Mellert, exec. vice president.
Front row, (l to r): Joshua Trainer, Southside Technical Center (3rd); Victor Walls, Campbell Co. ATC (1st); and Fernando Gonzaez, Southside Technical Center (2nd).



Victor Walls
Masonry Gold Medalist:

“This was the second year that I competed in the SkillsUSA Kentucky masonry competition. I was third last year, and I am really excited about winning it this year. The prizes were really fantastic. I am honored to be representing Kentucky in the National SkillsUSA masonry competition.

“I would like to thank Mr. Porter because he has helped me improve my masonry skills. He is a great teacher. I plan to enroll in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky Regional Training Center Apprenticeship Program upon graduation. Thanks to them for sponsoring our competition. It is appreciated.”

For more information, visit:
<http://www.bricklayerslocal8ohio.com/Pages/OHKYADC.aspx>

or - <http://www.oh-kyadc.com/>



Ken Kudela, Director
I.U. of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Ohio/Kentucky Administrative District Council:

“On behalf of the Ohio/KY Administrative District Council of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, we were pleased to sponsor the SkillsUSA KY Masonry and Masonry 1 competitions at this year’s state conference. As director of our organization, I have seen and judged numerous events over the years. Kentucky’s competitors were some of the best I have seen in quite a few years. I’ll even take this a step farther – the competitors and staff for the skills competition in KY are among the best in the nation.

“Many years ago, I competed in VICA and found that the competition made me strive to be better at my craft. It is my hope that these competitors feel the same way.

“We believe in the importance of skilled masons – a trade in dire need of more skilled individuals entering into the workforce. The value of SkillsUSA and these types of events judged by industry professionals creates an avenue for more connections to be made. We became involved because we understand the need for skilled craftsmen. If our union can be of any assistance in helping a young person pursue a career in masonry, please contact us. We are looking for skilled individuals who have a great work ethic.”

**Kyle Beecher,
Masonry 1 winner
Campbell Co. ATC**

“I was really excited when they announced my name for first place in the masonry 1 contest. The prizes were a great surprise. I would like to thank all the people who donated the prizes. It was rewarding knowing we were acknowledged for our skills.

“I want to thank Mr. Porter for being a great teacher and I can’t wait to use my new tools on a side job I plan to do.”

**Jimmy Lee Porter, masonry instructor
Campbell Co. ATC:**

“I am very proud of the hard work and dedication Victor Walls put into the masonry program at Campbell County ATC. He has a bright future in the masonry industry. It has been a pleasure working with this young man for the past two years. By winning this state SkillsUSA competition, he has proven skills that will serve him well in his career. We are also proud of Kyle for his first place win in masonry 1.

“We all want to thank the Southern Ohio/Kentucky Regional Training Center for sponsoring the competitions. It’s because of these people that we had a great competition and they have even provided an extra donation to help Victor get to the national competition. This is invaluable and we thank them for their generosity. We appreciate the prize donations from Estwing Tools, Bond Tools, Marshall Town, and J Construction for the masonry and masonry I competitions. And, we thank Daren Thompson and K4C for the travel scholarship. The support from all of these people means so much to our competitors.”

Masonry 1 winners: Photo, back row (to r): Kudela, Hubbard, Garnett, and Mellert. Front row, (l to r): Robert Tanner, Southside Technical Center (3rd); Kyle Beecher, Campbell Co. ATC (1st); and Austin Rodriguez, Southside Technical Center (2nd).





Photo, (l to r): Mac Mellert, exec. vice president; Garnett; and Fred Hubbard, exec. secretary treasurer.

For more information: Email us at oadc@oadc.net or call us at (330) 463-5419

Jeff Garnett
Apprentice Coordinator
Southern Ohio-KY Regional Training Center:

“It was an honor to represent our union by serving as chairman of the SkillsUSA KY masonry and masonry 1 competitions at this year’s state conference. Having served as a judge in previous years, I knew the competitors would be fierce and they did not disappoint any of the judges. We were impressed. The level of skill each competitor displayed was a tribute to the skills they are learning in their classrooms. Keep up the great work.

“We hope to see these young people in the workforce and encourage them to continue to develop their skills. If we can help in any way, let us know.”

Story and layout by Fran Dundon
SkillsUSA KY B & I director
Photos courtesy of Tim Thornberry
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**I.U. of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Ohio-KY Administrative District Council
recognized during 2014 SkillsUSA KY Opening Session**